

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is being presented and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REASONS FOR ENTRY

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because BOTH references applied to the claims are newly cited in the final Office Action, and Applicant should be provided the opportunity to present patentability arguments and amendments in view thereof.

The amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicant believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed. Furthermore, the amendments should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added and no new issues are being raised.

Moreover, the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for appeal. The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." (Underlining added for emphasis) Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified."

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-6 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER KUROSAWA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,047,288) IN VIEW OF FISHER ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,212,511)

The rejections of claims 1-6 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Kurosawa et al. (hereinafter "Kurosawa") discloses a method which can set a group operation environment which enables sharing of environment setting information by a group unit by utilizing a database. (Column 2, lines 52-62). The method includes specifying a group for a

cooperative operation. (Column 12, lines 30-31).

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner notes that Kurosawa does not teach designating one of the databases which an application program uses, as recited in claims 1 and 6. However, the Examiner states that Fisher et al. (hereinafter "Fisher") discloses this feature.

Fisher discloses a method for limiting access to management objects and sending event notifications to authorized users of the network management objects. (Column 1, lines 6-10). The database management system (DBMS) includes an access privileges module which configures access rights to each of the tables in the DBMS. That is, privileges tables store access rights information indicating which users have access to the tables. (Column 16, lines 22-32).

In contrast, independent claims 1 and 6 are amended herein to recite, "providing, when a request is sent, the request to the application program *according to the user ID and password included in a packet of the request.*" (Emphasis added). (See also page 14, line 26 through page 16, line 6 of the Specification).

Thus, if a plurality of users log in, each user's request is provided to the appropriate application program, corresponding to the user ID and password included in a packer of the request. Since the requests are provided to the application program according to the user ID and password, even if a plurality of users belonging to the same group log in, the same processing method is applied, and each user's request is provided to the appropriate application program. (See page 14, lines 13-14 of the Specification).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and inherit its patentable recitations. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5 also patentably distinguish over the references.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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